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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/077,950	02/20/2002	Olivier Matile	0503-1009	3030
466	7590	01/21/2004	EXAMINER	
YOUNG & THOMPSON			KASTLER, SCOTT R	
745 SOUTH 23RD STREET 2ND FLOOR			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
ARLINGTON, VA 22202			1742	

DATE MAILED: 01/21/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/077,950

Applicant(s)

MATILE, OLIVIER

Examiner

Scott Kastler

Art Unit

1742



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 November 2003.
2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) The drawing(s) filed on 20 February 2002 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. .
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) .
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). .
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Faerber in view of WO'302. Faerber teaches laser cutting aluminum with a thickness of 2mm (see the example) with a cutting speed of between 1 and 10 m/min (see col. 2 lines 66-67) using a gas mixture containing hydrogen in an amount of 5-15% by volume (see col. 2 lines 41-42) and nitrogen as the inert gas (see col. 3 lines 30-32) showing all aspects of the above claims except the use of a "multifocus type" lens as the optical means for focusing the laser (Faerber teaches only a general lens device (2), but does not exclude the use of bifocal or multifocus lenses as the lens to be employed). WO'302 teaches that when laser cutting metals, in order to reduce slag adherence and improve cutting quality, it was known in the art at the time the invention was made to employ bifocal or multifocal lenses as the optical means for focusing the laser at different points (see both the abstract and claims for example). Because improved cutting quality is also desired in Faerber, motivation to include a multifocal type lens as taught by WO'302 to improve cutting quality, as the optical focusing means (2) required by Faerber, would have been a modification obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed on 11-24-2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant's argument that Ferber is directed solely to cutting non-ferrous metals, WO'302 is directed to cutting of solely ferrous metals, and there is no motivation to combine these cutting methods since they are directed to the cutting of different materials is not persuasive. Ferber is not exclusively directed to the cutting of non-ferrous materials (the claims for example are directed to the cutting of any type of metal) and in fact, Ferber also specifically discloses the cutting of steel (see col. 1 lines 25-30). WO'302 is also not limited to the cutting of any specific type of metal.

Applicant's further argument that there is no motivation to combine the references to improve cutting quality is also not persuasive. As stated in the above rejection, Ferber allows for the use of any desired lens type. WO'302 teaches that a multifocal lens improves cutting quality in a laser cutting system. Because improve cutting quality is a specifically desired objective of Ferber, motivation to employ the lens type described by WO'302 to improve cutting quality in the system taught by Ferber, which allows for the use of this type of lens, would have been a modification obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

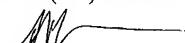
Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott Kastler whose telephone number is (571) 272-1243. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Roy King can be reached on (571) 272-1244. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.


Scott Kastler
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1742

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